

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 29, 31, 34-37, and 39-47 are pending in this application. Claim 38 is canceled by the present response without prejudice.

Claims 29, 34-37, and 42-47 are allowed. Claims 31 and 39-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Applicants' admitted art of Figure 8 in view of U.S. patent 6,265,739 to Yaegashi et al. (herein "Yaegashi"). Claim 38 was objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of the allowance of claims 29, 34-37, and 42-47 and the indication of the allowable subject matter in claim 38.

The present response is submitted to place the present application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter. More particularly, by the present response claim 31 is amended to now incorporate the limitations from dependent claim 38. Thus, amended independent claim 31 corresponds to previously pending dependent claim 38 rewritten in independent form. That subject matter was noted as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. Thus, amended independent claim 31, and each of the claims dependent therefrom, including rejected claims 39-41, are now also believed to be allowable.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

EHK:SNS\la

Surinder Sachar
Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

I:\ATTY\SNS\243712US-AM.DOC